

Policy on Residential Sprinkler Protection

Policy Title	Policy on Residential Sprinkler Protection
Policy #	02.105.2
Policy Owner	Director of Public Safety
Contact Information	Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Director of Public Safety at (401) 874-4910
Approved By	Administrative Policy Committee
Effective Date	June 6, 2023
Next Review Date	No later than June 30, 2028
Who Needs to Know About this Policy	All University of Rhode Island Employees responsible for the operations of buildings on University of Rhode Island property with sleeping units. (including all residence halls, fraternities, sororities, hotels, and specialty housing).
Definitions	None
Statutes, Regulations, and Policies Governing or Necessitating This Policy	National Fire Protection Association, <i>NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems</i> (2016) University of Rhode Island, <i>Minimum Standards for Installation of Sprinkler Systems</i> (2015)
Reason for Policy/Purpose	The purpose of this policy is to provide a fire-safe environment for every person residing on the University of Rhode Island campus(es).
Forms Related to this Policy	None

Policy Statement

The University of the Rhode Island (also, University) requires every residential building, and every sleeping unit within it, to be outfitted with a fully operational and approved automatic sprinkler system as defined by NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems. The only exemptions shall be single-family residences and those buildings having five (5) or fewer bedrooms.

1. Automatic Sprinkler System

An automatic sprinkler system shall consist of an integrated network of piping that includes a water supply source, a water control valve, a water flow alarm, a backflow preventer, and a drain. The portion of the sprinkler system above ground is a network of specifically sized or hydraulically designed piping installed in a building, structure, or area, generally overhead, and to which sprinklers are attached in a systematic pattern. The system operates automatically when its heat-activated element is heated to a specified temperature or above, allowing water to discharge over a specified area. (Adapted from NFPA 13 Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems.)

2. Coordinator of Fire and Life Safety Role

The Coordinator of Fire and Life Safety will work with the Office of Student Life, the Department of Housing and Residential Life, the Fraternity Managers Association, the Facilities Group, the Kingston Fire Department, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and any other appropriate agencies in order to:

- a) Develop a schedule of installation of sprinkler systems in all University buildings to which this policy is applicable in accordance with the implementation dates referenced below;
- b) Develop inspectional guidelines for the purpose of ensuring that each sprinkler system installation complies with State and University standards;
- c) Manage and document the inspection schedule;
- d) Ensure proper follow-up for all deficiencies reported.

3. Automatic Sprinkler System Requirement

Should any University building to which this policy applies not have an operational sprinkler system as of the initial effective date of this policy (noted below), that building may not be used for residential purposes until the building is fully compliant with this policy or as otherwise approved by the Director of Public Safety.

4. Implementation

The initial effective date of this policy was August 1, 2018.

For those buildings where a hardship can be demonstrated, the Director of Public Safety may, at their discretion, grant an extension of time provided such a request is accompanied by a detailed plan for compliance within a reasonable timeframe.

Exceptions

Single-family residences and those buildings having five (5) or fewer bedrooms are exempt from this policy. Exceptions to the implementation schedule noted above may be made for buildings where a hardship can be demonstrated and a detailed plan is provided for completing sprinkler installation.

Policy Review and Revisions

(Versions earlier than the first policy number may be paper only)

Policy #	Effective Date	Reason for Change	Changes to Policy
02.105.1	August 1, 2018	n/a	n/a
02.105.2	June 6, 2023	Scheduled Review	Policy owner changed to Dir. Public Safety; Changes to text for clarity